

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

House Committee Report

***Excerpts from the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and
Related Agencies Appropriation Bill, 2005***

(Report No. 108-636)

TITLE II--DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Maternal and child health block grant

The Committee encourages ACF's Head Start Bureau and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to continue and expand their successful interagency agreement to jointly address dental disease, the number one unmet health need of Head Start children. This partnership has brought together Head Start and the dental community at the national, state and local levels to seek solutions to improve access to oral health care for these children through the public and private sectors.

Abstinence education

The Committee does not provide funding for abstinence education within the Health Resources and Services Administration. As requested by the Administration, this account is now funded within the Administration for Children and Families.

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

The Committee provides \$2,873,802,000 for the Child Support Enforcement program, the same as the budget request. The bill also provides \$1,200,000,000 in advance funding for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 to ensure timely payments for the child support enforcement program, the same as the request. The bill continues to provide estimated funding of \$23,000,000 for Payments to Territories, the same as the fiscal year 2004 level and the budget request. The bill provides \$1,000,000 for the repatriation program, the same as the fiscal year 2004 level and the budget request.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The Committee provides an appropriation of \$2,227,000,000 for Low-Income Home Energy Assistance. This is \$111,044,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and

\$64,700,000 below the budget request. The Committee provides \$1,900,000,000 of these funds through the regular formula program and \$100,000,000 in contingent emergency funding through the Department of Health and Human Services and \$227,000,000 for weatherization assistance grants through the Department of Energy. The budget request included \$1,800,500,000 in formula grants, \$200,000,000 in contingent emergency funding, and \$291,200,000 in weatherization assistance.

Within the funds provided, \$227,000,000 is provided for the weatherization assistance program to be transferred to the Department of Energy. This program increases the energy efficiency of dwellings owned or occupied by low-income persons to reduce their overall total residential energy expenditures. This program had been previously funded through the Interior Subcommittee Appropriations Act, but was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee in June of 2004.

The weatherization assistance program has not been evaluated fully in over 10 years. The Committee was pleased by the last evaluation, performed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and encourages the Department of Energy to contract with ORNL for an up-to-date assessment.

The low-income home energy assistance program (LIHEAP), administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, provides assistance to low-income households to help pay the costs of home energy. Funds are provided through grants to States, Indian Tribes and territories, and are used for summer cooling and winter heating/crisis assistance programs.

REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

The Committee provides \$491,336,000 for refugee assistance programs. This is \$43,738,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and \$18,097,000 more than the budget request.

In addition, the bill provides the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) the authority to carry over unexpended funds from fiscal year 2005 to reimburse the costs of services provided through September 30, 2007 for all programs within ORR's jurisdiction.

Transitional and medical services

The Committee provides \$193,577,000 for transitional and medical services. This is \$24,602,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. The transitional and medical services program provides funding for the State-administered cash and medical assistance program that assists refugees who are not categorically eligible for TANF or Medicaid, the unaccompanied minors program that reimburses States for the cost of foster care, and the voluntary agency grant program in which participating National refugee resettlement agencies provide resettlement assistance with a combination of Federal and matched funds.

Victims of trafficking

The Committee provides up to \$10,000,000 for the victims of trafficking program. This is \$91,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. The funds will ensure continued administration of a National network for identification, tracking and certification of trafficking victims.

Social services

The Committee provides \$166,218,000 for social services. This is \$15,097,000 more than the budget request and \$14,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level. Funds are distributed by formula as well as through the discretionary grant making process for special projects. The Committee intends that funds provided above the request shall be used for Refugee School Impact Grants and for additional assistance in resettling and meeting the needs of the Hmong refugees expected to arrive during 2004 and 2005.

Within the funds provided, the Committee has included \$19,000,000 for increased support to communities with large concentrations of Cuban and Haitian refugees of varying ages whose cultural differences make assimilation especially difficult, justifying a more intense level and longer duration of Federal assistance for healthcare and education.

Preventive health

The Committee provides \$4,835,000 for preventive health services. This is \$43,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. These funds are awarded to the States to ensure adequate health assessment activities for refugees.

Targeted assistance

The Committee provides \$49,477,000 for the targeted assistance program. This is \$452,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. These grants provide assistance to areas with high concentrations of refugees.

Unaccompanied minors

The Committee provides \$54,229,000 for the unaccompanied minors program. This is \$1,459,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. Funds were transferred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) in fiscal year 2003 from the Immigration and Naturalization Service pursuant to section 462 of the Homeland Security Act. The program is designed to provide for the care and placement of unaccompanied alien minors who are apprehended in the U.S. pending resolution of their claims for relief under U.S. immigration law or released to an adult family member or responsible adult guardian.

The Committee is pleased with the progress that ORR has made in taking responsibility for this important program, especially the significant improvements in the treatment of unaccompanied alien children, including improvements in their placements and in the healthcare provided to them. The Committee intends that the funds provided by this appropriation be used, in part, to increase the number of juvenile coordinators in the program and to continue improvements in the provision of healthcare, including mental health care, to children in the program.

The Committee is concerned about some aspects of the transition of unaccompanied alien children functions from the INS to ORR, especially reports that not all unaccompanied alien children are making their way into the custody of ORR as was intended when Congress enacted the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The Committee directs ORR, in consultation with all appropriate Federal agencies, to report to the Committee within 90 days of the date of enactment of this Act, instances since March 1, 2003, in which Federal agencies have not promptly notified

ORR that it has unaccompanied alien children in their custody and have not made arrangements for the prompt transfer of such children to ORR's care.

The Committee is also aware of reports that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is not fully cooperating with ORR on release decisions and directs ORR, in cooperation with DHS, to report to this Committee on its formal arrangements with DHS on release decisions.

Victims of torture

The Committee provides \$13,000,000 to provide a comprehensive program of support for domestic centers and programs for victims of torture. This is \$3,091,000 more the fiscal year 2004 level and \$3,000,000 more than the budget request.

The Committee expects that the Office of Refugee Resettlement should give priority to specialized treatment programs that provide services for the rehabilitation of victims of torture, including treatment of the physical and psychological effects of torture. To meet the need of the over 400,000 victims of torture living in the United States, it is critical to invest in specialized treatment programs which, in turn, can offer essential training to general health care programs throughout the country.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

The bill includes \$2,099,729,000 for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, an increase of \$12,419,000 above the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request.

The Child Care and Development Block Grant program was originally enacted in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 to increase the availability, affordability and quality of child care by providing funds to States, Territories and Indian Tribes for child care services for low-income families. The authorization for mandatory appropriations for childcare in the amount of \$2,717,000,000 is also requested for fiscal year 2005.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The Committee provides \$1,700,000,000 for the social services block grant (SSBG). This is the same as the fiscal year 2004 level and the budget request.

SSBGs are designed to encourage States to furnish a variety of social services to needy individuals to prevent and reduce dependency, help individuals achieve and maintain self-sufficiency, prevent or reduce inappropriate institutional care, secure admission or referral for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate, and prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation of children and adults.

Funds are distributed to the territories in the same ratio such funds were allocated in fiscal year 1981. The remainder of the appropriation is distributed to the States and the District of Columbia according to population.

The bill includes a provision that modifies the percentage of funds that a State may transfer between the Social Services Block Grant and the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families programs to 4.5%.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS

The Committee provides a program level total of \$8,996,145,000 for children and family services programs. This is \$144,146,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and \$114,380,000 less than the budget request. Within the total provided, \$10,482,000 is provided through the evaluation set-aside. This account finances a number of programs aimed at enhancing the well-being of the Nation's children and families, particularly those who are disadvantaged or troubled.

Head Start

The bill includes \$6,898,580,000 for the Head Start program for fiscal year 2005, an increase of \$123,732,000 over the fiscal year 2004 amount and \$45,000,000 below the budget request. Of this total, the Committee continues the policy of advancing \$1,400,000,000 of this account into fiscal year 2006.

Head Start provides comprehensive development services for children and their families. Intended for preschoolers from low-income families, the program seeks to foster the development of children and enable them to deal more effectively with both their present environment and later responsibilities in school and community life. Head Start programs emphasize cognitive and language development, emotional development, physical and mental health, and parent involvement to enable each child to develop and function at his or her highest potential. At least ten percent of enrollment opportunities in each State are made available to handicapped children.

Grants to carry out Head Start programs are awarded to public and private non-profit agencies. Grantees must contribute 20 percent of the total cost of the program; this is usually an in-kind contribution. The Head Start Act does not include a formula for the allotment of funds to local grantees; however, it does require that 87 percent of the appropriation be distributed among States based on a statutory formula. In addition, grants, cooperative agreements and contracts are awarded in the areas of research, demonstration, technical assistance and evaluation from the remaining 13 percent.

The Committee has learned that while most local grantees are working to ensure federal Head Start funds are spent directly on preparing disadvantaged children for kindergarten, others appear to be billing Head Start for lavish salary and compensation packages for their top executives. In response to this information, the Committee has included a general provision limiting the compensation of an individual working in Head Start to the Federal Executive Level II salary. The Committee routinely includes similar language with respect to Job Corps and NIH executives.

The Committee is aware that only 19% of the children eligible for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) are able to access services due to limited funding in contrast to Regional Head Start programs that are able to serve 60% of their eligible children. Existing MSHS programs maintain significant wait lists and, in many areas of the country, there are not MSHS programs to provide services to migrant farmworker children when they move into a state. The Committee directs the department, within 90 days of enactment of the bill, to provide a plan to the Committee describing how it intends to serve a greater percentage of migrant children.

The Committee recognizes that there is concern among the educational and Head Start community about the administration of a standardized test for 4- and 5-year olds. The Committee directs the Department of Health and Human Services to submit the report from the independent panel appointed in March of 2004 assessing the effectiveness of the National Reporting System no later than November 30, 2004.

The Committee notes that the current Head Start Act includes the provision of training and technical assistance in the area of family literacy services--a provision that is retained in both House and Senate versions of Head Start reauthorization legislation. Absent the enactment of reauthorization legislation, the Committee encourages the Secretary to ensure the continuity of the important services that are being provided through the Head Start Family Literacy Project.

The Committee encourages the Head Start Bureau and the Maternal and Child Health Bureau to continue and expand their successful interagency agreement to jointly address dental disease.

Consolidated runaway and homeless youth program

The Committee provides \$89,447,000 for runaway and homeless youth activities, an increase of \$16,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. The Runaway, Homeless, and Missing Children Protection Act of 2003 reauthorized the runaway and homeless youth programs and established a statutory formula distribution between the Basic Center Program and the Transitional Living Program.

The runaway and homeless youth programs provide grants to local public and private organizations to establish and operate runaway and homeless youth shelters to address the crisis needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. Grants are used to develop or strengthen community-based shelters, which are outside the law enforcement, juvenile justice, child welfare, and mental health systems.

It is the Committee's expectation that current transitional living program grantees will continue to provide transitional living opportunities and supports to pregnant and parenting homeless youth, as is their current practice. To further ensure that pregnant and parenting homeless youth are able to access transitional living opportunities and supports in their communities, the Committee encourages the Secretary, acting through the network of federally-funded runaway and homeless youth training and technical assistance providers, to offer guidance to grantees and others on the programmatic modifications required to address the unique needs of pregnant and parenting youth and on the various sources of funding available for residential services to this population.

Maternity group homes

The Committee has not included funding for this new program. The budget request is \$10,000,000.

The Committee is aware of the need for and shares the Administration's interest in funding residential services for young mothers and their children who are unable to live with their own families because of abuse, neglect, or other circumstances. The Committee notes that pregnant and parenting youth are currently eligible for and served through the Transitional Living Program.

Prevention grants to reduce abuse of runaway youth

The Committee provides \$15,302,000 for prevention grants to reduce abuse of runaway youth. This is the same as the fiscal year 2004 level and the budget request. This program is designed to reduce the sexual abuse of runaway youth by providing grants to support street-based outreach and education to runaway, homeless, and street youth who have been sexually abused or who are at-risk of sexual abuse, in order to connect these young people with services so that they have a chance for a safe and healthy future. The street outreach program ensures rapid engagement with young people in an effort to prevent the most terrible situations that take place when they are subjected to life on the streets--physical and sexual abuse, assault, commercial sexual exploitation, disease, long-term homelessness, and even death.

Child abuse State grants and discretionary activities

For child abuse State grants and discretionary activities, the Committee provides \$54,570,000. This is \$1,519,000 less than the fiscal year 2004 level and \$13,529,000 less than the budget request. Within this total, the recommendation includes \$28,484,000 for State grants, which is \$6,601,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and \$13,529,000 less than the budget request and \$26,266,000 for child abuse discretionary activities which is the same as the budget request.

Community-based child abuse prevention

The Committee provides \$43,205,000 for community-based child abuse prevention. This is \$10,000,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and \$21,797,000 less than the budget request. The Keeping Children and Families Safe Act of 2003 reauthorized and renamed this program and added voluntary home visiting programs as a core local service. Funds are provided to lead State agencies and are used to develop, operate, expand, and enhance community-based efforts to strengthen and support families in order to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Abandoned infants assistance

The Committee provides \$12,086,000 for the Abandoned Infants Assistance Act. This is \$34,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. The purpose of this program is to provide financial support to public and private community and faith-based entities to develop, implement, and operate demonstration projects that will prevent the abandonment of infants and young children exposed to HIV/AIDS and drugs; identify and address their needs; assist such children to reside with their natural families or in foster care; recruit, train and retain foster parents as well as health and social services personnel; provide respite care for families and foster families; and prevent the abandonment of infants and young children.

Child welfare services and training

The Committee provides \$291,986,000 for child welfare services. This is \$2,666,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. This program, authorized by title IV B of the Social Security Act, provides grants to States to assist public welfare agencies to improve child welfare services. State services include preventive intervention in order for children to stay in their homes, alternative placement like foster care or adoption if it

is not possible for children to remain at home, and reunification programs so that, if appropriate, children can return home.

The Committee provides \$7,470,000 for child welfare training. This is \$59,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request. The Committee recognizes the need for trained, skilled and qualified child welfare service workers. This program provides grants to institutions of higher education to develop and improve education and training programs and resources for child welfare service providers as well as students seeking degrees in social work.

Adoption opportunities

The Committee provides \$27,343,000 for adoption opportunities. This is \$240,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request. The Adoption Opportunities Program provides funding specifically targeted to improving the adoption of children, particularly those with special needs, and for providing for innovative services that support families involved in adoption.

Minority and low-income foster children are the largest population of foster children nationwide and the hardest to place in homes. The Committee recognizes the positive impact of faith-based adoption organizations, such as One Church One Child, who specifically target minority populations in underserved communities. By providing adoption services and education to minority church communities to be paired with foster children, organizations such as One Church One Child bring together families and children who may not otherwise have access to adoption services.

The Committee encourages the Department of Health and Human Services to expand funding opportunities for faith-based adoption programs such as One Church One Child to enhance their capacity to provide community-based counseling and mentoring programs to minority and low-income foster children and provide case management and wraparound support services to adoptive and foster children and their families to promote positive child, youth and family development.

Adoption incentives

The Committee provides \$32,103,000 for the adoption incentives program. This is \$24,647,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 appropriated level and the same as the budget request. The Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 reauthorized this program and now targets incentives specifically for older children. Funds are awarded to States using three baselines: one for the total number of children adopted, one for children with special needs under the age of nine, and one for children aged nine and older. The goal of this program is to increase the number of adoptions nationwide.

Adoption awareness

The Committee provides \$12,906,000 for the adoption awareness program. This is the \$121,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and the same as the budget request. This program was authorized in the Children's Health Act of 2000. The adoption awareness program provides training to designated staff of eligible health centers in providing adoption information

and referrals to pregnant women on an equal basis with all other courses of action included in non-directive counseling to pregnant women.

Compassion capital fund

The Committee provides \$55,000,000 for the compassion capital fund. This is \$7,298,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and \$45,000,000 less than the budget request. This program supports the creation of grants to public/private partnerships to support charitable organizations in expanding or emulating model social services agencies and provides capacity-building funds directly to faith- and community-based organizations.

Social services and income maintenance research

The Committee provides \$5,982,000 for social services and income maintenance research through the evaluation set-aside. This is the same level as the budget request and \$13,186,000 less than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level. The budget request provided this funding through direct appropriation. These funds support research, demonstration, evaluation and dissemination activities. Areas covered include welfare reform, childcare, and child welfare.

Developmental disabilities

For programs authorized by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 as well as by the Help America Vote Act, the Committee provides \$164,942,000. This is \$170,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and \$88,000 more than the budget request. The account total includes \$73,081,000 for allotments to the States to fund State Councils, the same as the budget request and the fiscal year 2004 level. These Councils engage in such activities as planning, policy analysis, demonstrations, training, outreach, interagency coordination, and public education. They do not provide direct services to the developmentally disabled population.

In addition, \$38,416,000 will be available to the States to be used for operating a protection and advocacy system to protect the legal and human rights of the developmentally disabled. This is the same as the budget request and the fiscal year 2004 level.

The Committee provides \$15,000,000 for Disabled Voter programs. This is \$89,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and \$88,000 more than the budget request. Within the funds provided, \$10,000,000 is available for payments to States to promote access for voters with disabilities and \$5,000,000 is available for State protection and advocacy systems. The Disabled Voter programs are intended to make polling places accessible and provide equal access and participation for individuals with disabilities. The protection and advocacy program will ensure that individuals can fully participate in the electoral process, including registering to vote, accessing polling places, and casting a vote.

The Committee provides \$11,642,000 for developmental disabilities projects of National significance. This is \$81,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 funding level and the same as the budget request.

The Committee provides a total of \$26,803,000 for university centers for excellence in developmental disabilities. This is the same as the fiscal year 2004 level and the budget request.

These are discretionary grants to public or not-for-profit entities associated with universities. These grants provide basic operational and administrative core support for these agencies. In addition, these funds support interdisciplinary training, community services, research and technical assistance and information dissemination.

Native American programs

The Committee provides \$45,155,000. This is the same as the budget request and \$2,000 less than the fiscal year 2004 level. The Native American program assists Tribal and Village governments, Native American institutions and organizations to support and develop stable, diversified local economies. In promoting social and economic self-sufficiency, this organization provides financial assistance through direct grants for individual projects, training and technical assistance, and research and demonstration programs.

Community Services

The Committee provides \$710,088,000 for Community Services activities. This is \$157,738,000 more than the budget request and \$21,196,000 less than the fiscal year 2004 level.

State block grant

For the State Block Grant, the Committee provides \$627,500,000. This is \$132,554,000 more than the budget request and \$14,435,000 less than the fiscal year 2004 comparable level. This program provides grants to States, territories and Indian Tribes for services to meet employment, housing, nutrition, energy, emergency services, and health needs of low-income people. By law, 90 percent of these funds are passed directly through to local community action agencies that have previously received block grant funds.

The Committee directs the Secretary to prepare a 3-year strategic plan for the Office of Community Services use of Training and Technical Assistance funds in the fiscal years 2005-2008. The plan should be developed with the guidance of entities experienced in providing effective research and training support to the Community Services Block Grant agency network and should be provided to the Community by no later than June 15, 2005. The Committee further encourages Training and Technical Assistance funding appropriated for fiscal year 2005 to be used for activities to carry out corrective action and monitoring activities (including the development of reporting systems and electronic data systems) to assist States in continuing to improve their local programs.

Community economic development

The Committee provides \$32,492,000 for community economic development grants. This is \$154,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request. These activities provide assistance to private, locally-initiated community development corporations that sponsor enterprises providing employment, training and business development opportunities for low-income residents in poor communities. Within the total, \$5,481,000 is provided for the Job Opportunities for Low-Income Individuals program, which provides competitive grant to non-profit organizations to create new employment and business opportunities for TANF recipients and other low-income individuals.

It has come to the attention of the Committee that the Department has established a number of set-asides within the community economic development program. Given the limited amount of funds available, it is the Committee's view that the number of set-asides should be substantially reduced. Further, the Committee reminds the Department that the principal purpose of the program is making grants of qualified community development with a record of achievement in working in distressed urban and rural communities. The Committee believes that special emphasis should be placed on providing financial and technical assistance to local businesses and start-ups. Finally, the Committee directs that of funds allocated for Job Creation Demonstration, not more than \$500,000 be set-aside for program support and technical assistance.

Individual development account

The Committee provides \$24,912,000 for individual development accounts. This is \$217,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request. Individual development accounts are dedicated savings accounts that can be used by families with limited means for purchasing a first home, paying for postsecondary education or capitalizing a business. The intent of the program is to encourage participants to develop and reinforce strong habits for saving money. 501(c)(3) organizations are eligible to apply for the funds and applicants must match Federal funds with non-Federal funds.

Rural community facilities

The Committee provides \$7,184,000 for the rural community facilities program. This is the same as the fiscal year 2004 amount. No funding was requested for this program. The Committee includes these funds to be used solely for the purpose of improving water and wastewater facilities in poor, rural communities. As in the past, these funds should be allocated to regional, rural community assistance programs.

National youth sports program

The Committee provides \$18,000,000 for the National Youth Sports program. This is \$106,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level. No funds were requested for this program. These funds are made available to a private, non-profit organization to provide recreational activities for low-income youth, primarily in the summer months. College and university athletic facilities are employed in the program.

Community food and nutrition

The Committee concurs with the budget request not to include funding for the Community Food and Nutrition program. The fiscal year 2004 funding level for this program is \$7,238,000. This program provides grants to public and private agencies to coordinate existing food assistance programs, to identify sponsors of child nutrition programs and attempt to initiate new programs and to do advocacy work at the State and local levels.

Violent crime reduction programs

The Committee provides \$125,648,000 for family violence prevention and services and battered women's shelters. This is the same as the budget request and the fiscal year 2004 level. This

program is designed to assist States and Indian Tribes in efforts to prevent family violence and to provide immediate shelter and related assistance for victims of family violence and their dependents, and to provide for technical assistance and training relating to family violence programs to State and local public agencies (including law enforcement agencies), nonprofit private organizations, and persons seeking such assistance.

The Committee also includes \$3,000,000 to continue funding the National Domestic Violence Hotline. This is \$18,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request.

Early Learning Fund

The Committee concurs with the budget request and does not provide funding for the Early Learning Fund. The fiscal year 2004 level for this program is \$33,580,000. This program was begun in fiscal year 2001 to help facilitate the development of learning readiness in young children.

Faith-based center

The Committee provides \$1,400,000 for the faith-based center. This is the same as the budget request and \$14,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level. The center will support implementation of faith-based and community initiatives in accordance with the President's executive order.

Mentoring children of prisoners

The Committee provides \$50,000,000 for the mentoring children of prisoners program. This is \$299,000 above the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request. This program supports competitively awarded grants to States and local governments, Indian tribes and consortia, and faith- and community-based organizations to mentor children of prisoners and those recently released from prison.

Independent living training vouchers

The Committee provides \$50,000,000 for independent living training vouchers. This is \$5,266,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and \$10,000,000 less than the budget request. These funds support vouchers for college tuition or vocational training for individuals who age out of the foster care system, so they can be better prepared to live independently.

Promotion of responsible fatherhood and healthy marriages

The Committee does not include funding for the promotion of responsible fatherhood and healthy marriages program. The budget request is \$50,000,000. Legislation authorizing this program is pending Congressional action.

Abstinence education

The Committee provides a program level total of \$109,546,000 for the community-based abstinence education program, which is \$34,997,000 above the fiscal year 2004 comparable level and \$76,880,000 below the budget request. Within the total, \$4,500,000 is provided through the evaluation set-aside as requested. The program provides support to public and private entities for implementation of community-based abstinence education programs for adolescents aged 12

through 18. The entire focus of these programs is to educate young people and create an environment within communities that supports teen decisions to postpone sexual activity until marriage. There is no funding match requirement for these grants. The Committee intends that up to five percent of these funds be used to provide technical assistance and capacity-building support to grantees.

Within the total for abstinence education, \$10,000,000 may be used to carry out a National Abstinence Education Campaign. Funds were requested for this initiative within the Office of the Secretary. The campaign is entitled the 'Responsible Choices Campaign' and it will help parents communicate with their children about the health risks associated with premarital sexual activity. This new initiative will also increase awareness on the importance of parental involvement and will develop strategies on strengthening families through effective communication.

The Committee supports abstinence education (as defined in sections (A) through (H) of Title 5, section 510(b)(2) of the Social Security Act) for adolescents ages 12 through 18, and supports expansion of efforts to present this abstinence message to America's youth. Results from these programs are promising. It is important, however, to ensure that America's youth do not receive mixed messages, or medically inaccurate information. Abstinence messages to a group of youth by a grantee must not be diluted by any instructor or materials from the same grantee. Nothing in the legislation is intended to prevent these adolescents from seeking health information or services. Nothing shall preclude entities that have a public health mandate from discussing other forms of sexual conduct or providing services, as long as this is conducted in a different setting than where and when the abstinence-only course is being conducted. In allocating grant funds, priority should be given to those organizations that have a strong record of support of abstinence education as defined in sections (A) through (H) of Title 5, section 510(b)(2) of the Social Security Act.

The Committee is committed to studying the effectiveness of abstinence education. In order to track the long-term effects of these programs properly, it is necessary to conduct longitudinal studies that, for a number of years, follow groups of individual adolescents who receive a particular curriculum. Therefore, the Committee provides \$4,500,000 of funding under Public Health Service evaluation funds to study, track, and evaluate youth who receive such education. If possible, these cohorts should be large enough to provide statistically significant results in all major population segments of American society, including African-Americans, Asians, Caucasians, Hispanics and Native Americans. They should also be able to track socio-economic variables as well. All appropriate parental consent, age-appropriateness and privacy guidelines should be followed. Criteria for success should include: prevention and reduction of adolescent pregnancies and sexually transmitted disease infection, including both viral and bacterial; age at first sexual-activity and intercourse; frequency of sexual activity and intercourse; and numbers who postpone sexual activity or intercourse through adolescence. Progress reports should be submitted to Congress annually.

Program direction

The Committee provides \$190,206,000 for program direction expenses for the Administration for Children and Families. This is \$12,312,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request.

PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES

The Committee provides \$410,000,000 for the promoting safe and stable families program. This is \$5,617,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and \$95,000,000 less than the budget request.

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR FOSTER CARE AND ASSISTANCE

The Committee provides \$5,037,900,000 for payments to States for foster care and adoption assistance. This is \$30,400,000 less than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request. The bill also includes an advance appropriation of \$1,767,200,000 for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 to ensure timely completion of first quarter grant awards.

Of the total appropriation, including the advance appropriation from the prior year, the Committee provides \$4,895,500,000 for the foster care program to provide maintenance payments to States on behalf of children who must live outside their homes. This is the same as the budget request and \$78,700,000 less than the fiscal year 2004 level.

Within the total appropriation, the Committee provides \$1,770,100,000 for adoption assistance. This is \$70,400,000 more than the fiscal year 2004 level and the same as the budget request. This program provides training for parents and State administrative staff as well as payments on behalf of categorically eligible children considered difficult to adopt. This annually appropriated entitlement is designed to provide alternatives to long, inappropriate stays in foster care by developing permanent placements with families.

Within the total appropriation for this account, the Committee provides \$140,000,000 for the independent living program. This is the same as the fiscal year 2004 level and the budget request. The program is designed to assist foster children age 16 or older to make successful transitions to independence. Funds assist children to earn high school diplomas, receive vocational training, and obtain training in daily living skills. Funds are awarded to States on the basis of the number of children on behalf of whom Federal foster care payments are received.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 205. The Committee includes a provision limiting the compensation of an individual working in Head Start to the Federal Executive Level II salary.

Sec. 206. The Committee continues a provision to prohibit the Secretary from using evaluation set-aside funds until the Committee receives a report detailing the planned use of such funds.

Sec. 207. The Committee continues a provision, although changes the percentage provided in the fiscal year 2004 bill, permitting the Secretary to use up to 2.3 percent of funds authorized under the PHS Act for the evaluation of programs.

(TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Sec. 208. The Committee continues a provision permitting the Secretary of HHS to transfer up to one percent of any discretionary appropriation from an account, with an additional two percent subject to the approval of the Appropriations Committees, but prohibiting any appropriation to increase by more than three percent by such transfer.

TITLE V--GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 501. The Committee continues a provision to allow the Secretaries of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education to transfer unexpended balances of prior appropriations to accounts corresponding to current appropriations to be used for the same purpose and for the same periods of time for which they were originally appropriated.

Sec. 502. The Committee continues a provision to prohibit the obligation of funds beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Pursuant to clause 3(f)(2), rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table is submitted describing the transfers of funds provided in the accompanying bill.

The table shows, by Department and agency, the appropriations affected by such transfers.

APPROPRIATION TRANSFERS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL

Account to which transfer is made	Amount Account from which transfer is made	Amount
Department of Energy:	Department of Health and Human Services: Administration for Children and Families:	
Weatherization Assistance Program	Low-Income Home Energy Assistance	\$227,000,000

TITLE II--DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PAYMENTS TO STATES FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Language providing that the sum of the amounts available to a State with respect to expenditures under title IV-A of the Social Security Act in fiscal year 1997 under this appropriation and under

such title IV-A as amended by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 shall not exceed the limitations under section 116(b) of such Act.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

Language providing that States may transfer up to 10 percent of Temporary Assistance for Needy Family funds to the Social Services Block Grant.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SERVICES PROGRAMS

Language making \$5,982,000 available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out provisions of section 1110 of the Social Security Act.

Language providing that unexpended Community Services Block Grant funds may be carried over to the next fiscal year by local grantees.

Language making \$4,500,000 available under section 241 of the Public Health Service Act to carry out evaluations of adolescent pregnancy prevention approaches.

APPROPRIATIONS NOT AUTHORIZED BY LAW

Pursuant to clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following table lists the appropriations in the accompanying bill which are not authorized by law:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Administration of Children and Families

	Last year of authorization	Authorization level	Appropriations in last year of authorization	Appropriations in this bill
Child Care Development Block Grant	FY 2002	\$1,000,000,000	\$2,099,994,000	\$2,099,729,000
Head Start	FY 2003	Such Sums	6,815,570,000	6,898,580,000
Native American Programs	FY 2002	Such Sums	45,946,000	45,155,000
Community Services Block Grant	FY 2003	Such Sums	739,315,000	710,088,000

Office of Refugee
Resettlement, except:
Unaccompanied Alien
Children, Victims of
Torture, and Victims of
Trafficking

FY 2002

Such Sums

439,894,000

414,107,000